

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Kenneth H. Grabstein, Dean K. Pettit and Raymond J. Paxton

Serial No.: 09/578,669

Group Art Unit No.: 1645

Filed: May 25, 2000

Examiner: Navarro, A. M.

For: ANTAGONISTS OF INTERLEUKIN-15

Docket No.: 2831-E

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TECH CENTER 1600/2800AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper timely responds to the Office Action dated November 19, 2002 (Paper No. 11, "Office Action"). Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and to withdraw the restriction requirement and the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §103, in view of the following amendment and remarks.

AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

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Claim 26. (Amended) An antagonist of interleukin-15 (IL-15) activity comprising IL-15 or a mutein thereof, conjugated with a chemical group that sterically interferes with the ability of IL-15 to transduce a signal through the IL-15 receptor complex, wherein said antagonist is capable of binding to said IL-15 receptor complex.

Claim 27. (Amended) The antagonist of claim 26 wherein said IL-15 is native.

Claim 28. (Amended) The antagonist of claim 27 wherein the native IL-15 comprises the sequence of amino acids 49-162 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 49-162 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 29. (Amended) An antagonist of interleukin-15 (IL-15) activity comprising native IL-15 comprising the sequence of amino acids 49-162 of SEQ ID NO: 2 conjugated with a chemical group that sterically interferes

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date appearing below.

February 19, 2003
DateElizabeth M. McCarthy
Signature: Elizabeth M. McCarthy